



Comments Requested for Special Onion Pesticide Registration

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MADISON – The public can comment until March 17 on proposed special local needs registration of a pesticide to be used to control volunteer potato plants in dry bulb onion crops.

The special registration proposed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will allow growers to use Starane® Ultra on dry bulb onions, which are often grown in rotation with potatoes. Potato tubers left from the previous year's crop may sprout, competing with the onions and creating a risk for late blight. This fungal disease of potatoes spreads easily, and could threaten nearby potato fields. There are no other pesticides available to control volunteer potato plants in muck or peat soils, where many Wisconsin growers raise their onion-potato rotations.

Starane® Ultra contains the active ingredient *fluroxypyr 1-methylheptyl ester* and is registered by Dow AgroSciences, Indianapolis, IN. It is labeled for use on other crops in Wisconsin, but not onions.

The preliminary environmental assessment indicates that the proposed amendment will not require a full environmental impact statement. This special pesticide registration will expire December 31, 2019.

For a copy of the assessment, contact Otto Oemig by email at otto.oemig@wisconsin.gov; by mail at DATCP, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI, 53708-8911; or by phone at 608-224-4547. It is available for review at the department Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison, second floor. Comments received on or before 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, will become part of the preliminary environmental assessment record. Send comments to Otto Oemig by mail or email at the above addresses.

The special registration process allows states to register additional uses of pesticide products without prior federal approval. It helps growers address local pest problems that cannot be adequately controlled by any available federally registered product. These problems include insect outbreaks, fungal diseases, and grasses and weeds that outcompete crops. Details about the special registration process are available at <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/SpecialRegistrationApplication.pdf>.

DATCP has previously authorized similar requests for Starane® Ultra, with the most recent one expiring on Dec. 31, 2014. The department has not received any reports of adverse effects from the previous special registrations.

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